

VISIT TO UMASS LOWELL BY THE LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST

EVENT BRIEFING

EVENT: Visit to UMass Lowell by Lord Mayor of Belfast

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 17, 2015
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Allen House, Conference Room 106

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PURPOSE:

The Lord Mayor of Belfast will be visiting Boston in September and his office reached out to schedule a visit to UMass Lowell as we are one of the schools competing in the Friendship Four Tournament in Belfast. We would like to provide him with an update on UMass Lowell and our hockey program as well as some information on the work of the Center for Irish Partnerships.

BACKGROUND:

On April 10, 2015, near the gilded Bobby Orr statue outside TD Garden, Boston's mayor, Marty Walsh, announced the creation of the Friendship Four college hockey tournament to be held in Belfast.

The inaugural tournament will be played Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 27-29, and will feature Northeastern, UMass-Lowell, Colgate, and Brown. It will be the first time the NCAA has held competitive games outside of the US.

"This is a first of its kind event which represents a relationship between our cities that has been growing for some time," said Walsh, who inked a "Sister City" agreement with the Northern Ireland capital as one of his first duties in office. "We're going to take our cities relationships to the next level. We're going to create exchange for students and educators and business people, leading with new ideas and new growth."

To the victor will go "The Belpot," a take on the Beanpot, coveted by Northeastern, Harvard, BU, and BC since 1952. The hope is that the Friendship Four is an annual event.

"The NCAA is the best post-secondary education system in the world for student-athletes," said Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Arder Carson. "We are proud to bring an event that will allow the universities to showcase some of the most talented and competitive athletes in NCAA hockey for the people of Belfast," said Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Arder Carson.

The event is run by The Odyssey Trust, owners of the 12,000-seat Odyssey Arena and its Elite Ice Hockey League team, the Belfast Giants.

ATTENDEES:

- Councillor Arder Carson, Lord Mayor of Belfast
- Frances Murray, European Officer, Belfast City Council
- Councilor Rodney Elliott, Mayor of Lowell
- Dana Skinner, Athletic Director, UMass Lowell
- Dr. Frank Talty, Center for Irish Partnerships co-director, UMass Lowell
- Dr. Steve McCarthy, Center for Irish Partnerships co-director, UMass Lowell
- Dr. Steve Tello, Associate Vice Chancellor, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development
- Victoria Denoon, Center for Irish Partnerships co-director, UMass Lowell

NOTES:

- Councillor Carson will be hosting a lunch for the representatives from the Friendship Four Universities in Belfast on October 8th at City Hall – Dana and Victoria will be attending

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bio of Councillor Arder Carson
- Bio of Councilor Rodney Elliott
- Activities of the Center for Irish Partnerships

Lord Mayor Arder Carson



The current Lord Mayor of Belfast is Councillor Arder Carson (Sinn Fein).

Councillor Carson was elected to office on 24 March 2015. He was formerly a councillor in Lisburn before being elected to represent Black Mountain for Belfast City Council in 2014.

The 54-year-old, from Andersonstown, is taking the theme 'Lord Mayor for communities' throughout his term.

Duties and responsibilities

As Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Carson has a number of duties and responsibilities:

- presiding over council meetings and, in the case of equality of votes, he has a second or casting vote
- promoting and raising awareness of the council's main objectives and priority issues
- encouraging and supporting all aspects of life in Belfast by attending civic and public events
- receiving distinguished visitors to the city
- acting as host on behalf of the council and the citizens of Belfast at civic functions
- acting as a spokesperson to the local, national and international media
- providing an appropriate response on behalf of Belfast at times of local, national and international catastrophe
- supporting and encouraging charitable and other appeals as appropriate
- promoting Belfast's business, commercial, cultural and social life
- promoting Belfast as a place of excellence in which to do business and as a tourist destination.

Rodney Elliott



Rodney Elliott resides in Pawtucketville with his wife Laurie. They have two daughters: Katelyn and Mikayla. His oldest daughter Katelyn is married (Kyle Griffin) and they have two daughters, Brooklyn and Whitney.

Mayor Elliott has been with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for over 22 years. He spent his first 3 years with the Agency at Headquarters in Washington DC as a Budget Analyst in the Comptroller's Office. His last 19 years have been spent in the Boston-New England Office where he currently serves as a Congressional Liaison, in the Office of the Regional Administrator, Office of Public Affairs. His experience also includes financial management, budget oversight, hazardous materials and emergency responder.

Prior to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, he served as the Administrative Assistant for the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, serving a three-member Board of Selectman. He was responsible for the operation and management of the Town's \$12 million budget. Rodney was also a City Planner for the City of Lowell for five years and Legislative Assistant for the Massachusetts State Senate for four years.

Mayor Elliott was first elected to the City Council in 1997. He currently serves as Chair of the School and City Council Finance Sub-committee. During his tenure on the Lowell City Council he has also served and is a member of the Community Services, Finance, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, and Technology and Utilities Subcommittees.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Plymouth State University, a Master of Public Administration degree from Suffolk University and a Master of Art degree in Political Science from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

The Center for Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell

In September 2009, UMass Lowell established the Center for Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell, one of 6 international partnership centers. The aim of these centers is to strengthen and coordinate ongoing international partnerships as well as to develop new education and research partnerships in areas of the world that pose strategically important opportunities.

The Mission of the Center for Irish Partnerships is to foster collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland across an interdisciplinary spectrum including the social sciences, the natural sciences and engineering, the humanities and health and education fields. These international partnerships embrace faculty exchange and joint research ventures and to work with Irish partners to create a dynamic model for Cross-Atlantic collaboration that will promote and advance University of Massachusetts Lowell's goals to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service.

Slogan: "A Shared Heritage...A Shared Future"

The Center has four co-directors, Dr. Frank Talty, Dr. Stephen McCarthy, Professor Ann Marie Hurley and Victoria Denoon.

Here are a few things that the Center is currently involved with:

Institutional Collaborative Agreements

- In March, 2009, UMass Lowell and Queen's University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote international partnerships between the two institutions. Specific areas of cooperation include:
 1. Collaboration between the Plastics Engineering Department, UMass Lowell, and School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (Polymers Cluster), Queen's University Belfast in the areas of doctoral studentships, exchange of faculty, collaborative research and symposia.
 2. Collaboration between the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy (including Irish Studies and summer programs), Queen's University Belfast and UMass Lowell in the areas of collaborative research, conferences, doctoral studentships, and faculty exchanges.
 3. Collaboration between the School of Music (in Sonic Arts), Queen's University Belfast and Music Technology at UMass Lowell in the areas of collaborative research, participation in undergraduate study abroad initiatives, and visiting scholar arrangements for faculty and doctoral students who are in the process of writing their dissertations.
 4. Collaboration between the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast and UMass Lowell through undergraduate exchanges, collaborative research, doctoral studentships and conferences.
- In July, 2010, UMass Lowell signed a Memorandum of Intent to Collaborate with Dublin City University with the following goals:

1. To encourage visits by faculty from each University for the purpose of engaging in research and educational activities;
 2. To support the exchange of both undergraduate and graduate students;
 3. To promote links between both institutions in teaching, research and cultural activities;
 4. To provide opportunities for the development of joint research programs;
 5. To foster the exchange of academic publications and scholarly research;
 6. To share experiences and expertise concerning university administration and management;
 7. To promote academic activities that will enhance the goals listed above.
- In October, 2012, UMass Lowell signed a Memorandum of Understanding between UMass Lowell and University of Ulster to collaborate on medical technologies and business model, in order to establish a framework for a collaborative research relationship between UMass Lowell and the University of Ulster. UMass Lowell appointed the Director of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (Dr. Stephen McCarthy), and University of Ulster appointed the Director of MATCH to coordinate the development and implementation of the Collaboration.
 - In August, 2014, UMass Lowell signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National University of Ireland Galway. NUI Galway has a distinguished reputation for teaching and research excellence in the fields of arts, social science, engineering and informatics; medicine, nursing and health sciences; and science. Cooperation with UMass Lowell involves medical technology development and research. Specific areas of cooperation include:
 1. an initial focus on the areas of Biomedical Science and Engineering and Business and Innovation
 2. the exploration and development of collaborative opportunities and relationships between NUIG and other institutions in the University System in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with whom UML has existing relationships.
 - In February, 2015, a delegation from UMass Lowell visited Ireland to meet with current and new partner institutions. As part of the visit we meet with leadership at Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the Donegal County Council with regards to M2D2 and the Northeast Corridor proposal. We also visited University of Limerick and University College Cork to discuss areas of collaboration and to sign Memoranda of Understandings to promote future partnerships.

Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship Conference

- In October 2009, UMass Lowell hosted the first annual US/Ireland Emerging Technologies Conference at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, engaging faculty and researchers from Queen's University, Dublin City University, UMass Lowell and leaders in industry. This international event featured experts from the three universities presenting and taking part in panel discussions on new research in biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, nanotechnology and more. Representatives of companies leading the way in those fields will spoke about how new technologies are being used in real-world manufacturing and product development.
- The second US/Ireland Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship conference took place at Dublin City University in October 2011. 6 faculty members from UMass Lowell took part as presenters at the two day conference.
- The third US/Ireland Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship conference took place at Queen's University in September 2012. Several UMass Lowell faculty members presented at the conference covering the areas of Advanced Polymers/nano materials and manufacturing and Teaching and learning.
- We are pursuing plans to hold a fourth conference in 2016.

Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program

- In August, 2010, 3 archaeologists from Queen's University traveled to Lowell to take part in a reconnaissance excavation with 6 UMass Lowell students to unearth evidence of early Irish immigrants to flocked to the city in the early 1800s. During the course of the excavation, the group uncovered over 1300 artifacts.
- In 2011 the next phase of the project took place. This involved a 2 week excavation program, 1 week in Lowell and 1 week in Northern Ireland, crewed by students from UMass Lowell and Queen's University.
- Phase three of the program took place at St. Patrick's Church in Lowell in July, 2012 and in Co. Tyrone in Northern Ireland in August 2012.
- Phase four took place September, 2013 (16th - 20th). This was primarily a research visit and included a complete catalogue of the artifacts and a 3D laser scan of St. Patrick's Church.

The Irish in Massachusetts: Historical Significance, Lasting Legacy – 2014 Conference at UMass Lowell

- As a result of the successful collaboration on the Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program, UMass Lowell and Queen's University co-hosted a conference at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center on September 24-26, 2014 that was attended by 125 people.
- The stories of Irish-American immigrants – from their work helping to settle New England and create its culture to their involvement in American politics – were the focus of the three-day conference
- "Irish in Massachusetts: Historical Significance, Lasting Legacy" explored the underpinnings of Irish immigration since the 1600s and the people's contributions to American life. Historians, artists, archaeologists and lawmakers led more than a dozen sessions about Irish-Americans' influence in music, literature, sports, politics and history. All sessions were open to the public.

Study Abroad Opportunities

- UMass Lowell currently sends students to Queen's University to take part in their international summer school in Irish studies, and this fall we currently have a UMass Lowell student spending the entire semester at Queen's as part of our study abroad program.
- We have had 6 students spend an entire semester studying at Queen's University in Belfast.
- We hope to expand study abroad options to other universities that we have collaboration agreements with in the coming months.

Faculty Exchange and Collaboration

- Faculty Exchange Excellence and Equity in Education: Research Collaboration between Lowell, Belfast and Haifa completed a research proposal that will identify evidence based practices for school improvement and design intervention strategies to assist communities in improving their schools. The Belfast-Haifa-Lowell Group also completed a research proposal it intends to use to apply for grants from external funders.
- Several faculty members have been asked to give lectures at various institutions in Ireland including, National University of Ireland at Galway, Queen's University, Dublin City University and St. Patrick's Drumcondra.
- We have had a two faculty members do sabbaticals at partners institutions in Ireland, one at Queen's University Belfast (conflict resolution) and one at Dublin City University (Nursing). Another faculty member was awarded a Fulbright and spent time at Queen's University Belfast (Education).
- We have hosted faculty from Queen's University, Dublin City University and Cork Institute of Technology on campus for lectures and workshops, including:
 1. Dr. Peter Shirlow, faculty member from Queen's University Belfast came to campus to deliver a lecture on "Belfast: A post-conflict conundrum?"
 2. Dr. Gary Murphy, faculty member from Dublin City University and Fulbright Scholar, came to campus to deliver a lecture on "Ireland: From Celtic Tiger to IMF Bailout".
 3. Dr. Shane O'Neill, Dean of College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences from Queen's University visited campus to meet with faculty and students in Peace and Conflict Studies.
 4. Dr. Jean Hughes and Morag Munro from Dublin City University spent two days on campus meeting with various individuals about online learning, Centers for Learning and Innovation in learning
 5. The Center for Irish Partnerships and the Middle East Center co-sponsored a forum on Peace and Education entitled "Facing Conflict, Voices from the Field". Queen's University Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Tony Gallagher and Linda Bishai, Senior Program Officer, Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding at the United States Institute of Peace were the panelists.
 6. Michael Delaney, Vice President of Development from Cork Institute of Technology came to campus to explore collaboration opportunities.

Business Leaders and Local Government Collaboration

- The Center for Irish Partnerships hosted The Northern Ireland Massachusetts Connection (NIMAC), a group dedicated to advancing business, research and clinical collaboration, between Massachusetts, Northern Ireland and Europe, on campus in the M2D2 facility.
- The Center for Irish Partnerships has hosted three visits to UMass Lowell by delegation from Donegal, Ireland, including the Mayor and members of the County Council.
- In 2011, the Center for Irish Partnerships hosted Breakfast Roundtable for a delegation of local authority and business leaders from the Northwest of Ireland on the Green Economy and Tourism.
- In May, 2013, Professors Stephen McCarthy and Steven Tello were part of a trade delegation led by Senate President Therese Murray to Ireland and Northern Ireland. This visit included attending; meetings with government officials, the Northwest Health Innovation Corridor launch in Derry, roundtable discussions on potential areas of collaboration, meetings with business and industry leaders and the launch of e-health week conference in Dublin.
- On June 4 and fifth 2013, Frank Talty spoke to the Irish Diaspora conference in Letterkenny, County Donegal. Dr. Talty was part of a panel consisting of Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen and then state representative Eugene O'Flaherty on the topic of immigration reform in the United States. Dr. Talty presented a second session on leveraging and maximizing relationships between American universities and third level institutions in Ireland. The conference was sponsored by the Donegal peace and reconciliation partnership, and supported by the European Union's regional development fund.
- On October 6, 2014, Chancellor Meehan hosted a reception and dinner for Senate President Murray and a delegation from Derry and Donegal in response to the welcome that was received by our UMass delegation when they went to Donegal and Derry with the Senate President for the M2D2 announcement.
- On October 8, 2014, Victoria Denoon, Frank Talty and Steve McCarthy were all asked to participate as speakers/panelists at the Irish Echo's Annual Golden Bridges event in Boston.
- On December 4, 2014, Chancellor Meehan spoke at the Irish Network Christmas Party on behalf of the Center for Irish Partnerships

State Visits

- In November 19, 2010 – Visit to UMass Lowell by Irish Ambassador to the United States His Excellency Michael Collins and Irish Consul General to Boston, Michael Lonergan.
- In February, 2012, directors of the Center for Irish Partnerships attended a reception at the Seaport Hotel for Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D.
- In March, 2012, Ireland's Minister for Children and Youth Affairs visited UMass Lowell for a roundtable discussion on Children's Rights with faculty members Dr. Linda Williams and Dr. Andy Harris from Criminal Justice and Dr. Stephanie Block from Psychology.
- In May 4, 2012, Chancellor Meehan and Frank Talty attended a luncheon at the UMass Club welcoming Irish President, Michael D. Higgins, to Boston

- In March 2013, Ireland's Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, came to Lowell for a tour and met with Co-Director of the Center for Irish Partnerships, Victoria Denoon.
- In November 2013, UMass Lowell hosted a reception for Dr. Mary McAleese and presented her with an Honorary Degree.